

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, as set forth in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Office Action. Although Applicant does not acquiesce to the Examiner's rejection, apparatus claims 1-19 have been cancelled to facilitate prosecution of the present application. Regarding new method claims 20-39, Applicant notes that the claims include the step of defining a maximum cross-sectional width of a hole the pet is expected to dig under the fence, thereby providing a reference for the phrase "larger than the maximum cross-sectional width."

Regarding the rejection of claim 10 set forth in paragraph 5 of the Office Action, Applicant notes that new claim 20 (at lines 3 and 7), new claim 21 (at lines 3 and 11), and new claim 31 (at lines 3 and 11) refer to "the pet." Antecedent basis is provided in the preamble of each claim.

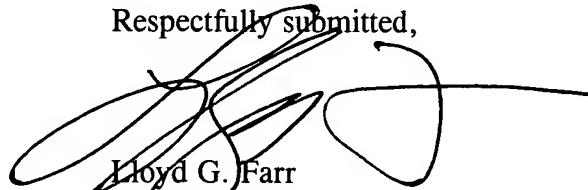
Original claims 1-19 were rejected over Killion U.S. Patent 5,358,258, Schaubach, U.S. Patent 6,142,889, and Reichert, U.S. Patent 4,247,117, as set forth in paragraphs 7, 9, 10 and 11 of the Office Action. Applicant submits that each of new independent claims 20, 21 and 31 is allowable over these references for at least the reason that none of the references, alone or in any combination, disclose or teach the steps of defining a maximum cross-sectional width of a hole a pet is expected to dig under a fence, providing a restraint anchor that defines respective widths in at least two orthogonal dimensions that are each larger than the maximum cross-sectional width, and attaching the restraint anchor to the pet.

Claims 22-30 depend from independent claim 21, while claims 32-39 depend from independent claim 31. These dependent claims recite further limitations and are allowable in their respective combinations.

Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable action, including withdrawal of the present rejections, is therefore respectfully requested.

Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at her convenience should any issues remain.

Respectfully submitted,



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